

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-11 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gfeller. The Examiner states that Gfeller teaches receiving a light beam at the photodetector, demodulating data carried on the received light beam, parsing the demodulated data and determining an origin of the demodulated data based on the parse and permitting signal lock if the origin of the received light beam is different from the optical wireless link.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner statements to the contrary notwithstanding, Gfeller has nothing to do with locking on to a received light beam. In Gfeller, as clearly show in Figure 4 and discussed at Column 5, Lines 55 et seq., it is possible that a packet of data may be received by two satellites from a single terminal in which case the two signals are compared, and a coincidence is detected, one will be discarded.

In sharp contrast, the present invention is used to prevent an optical wireless link module from locking on to its own steerable light beam. Because the beam is steerable, as it is looking for another OWL, the light may reflect off another surface, and be reflected back on to its own photodetector. If the OWL were to have locked on to this beam, it would be locked on to its own beam, and never find the other device. In view of the fact that Gfeller never teaches the acquisition of such a lock, it can not anticipate the present invention. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner's second rejection is that claims 12 and [word omitted] are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gfeller in view of Wissinger. In view of the recitations at the bottom of Page 5, Applicant's believe that the missing word is Claim 18, and have treated it thusly in this response.

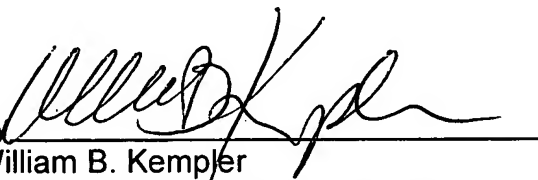
Claims 12 and 18 are dependent directly or indirectly from Claim 1. The patentability of Claim 1, having been shown above, these claims are patentable for the same reasons.

The Examiner rejects claims 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wissinger. These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The Examiner rejects claims 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wissinger in view of Gfeller. These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

Accordingly, Applicants believe the Application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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